

## Class Discussion: The 1920 Decennial Census Cartoon

### Description:

In this discussion, students examine a cartoon published for the 1920 Census in order to better understand and explain how the census related to the Progressive movement during the early 20th Century.

### Standard:

The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930) Standard 1: How Progressives and others addressed problems of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption



### Activity Instructions for Students

Use the 1920 Census Cartoon to answer the suggested discussion questions.

### Activity Assessment

**Suggested Discussion Questions:**

1. What is depicted in this cartoon?
2. What or who do you think the characters of Uncle Sam, the bear, and the man with glasses represent?
3. What were some of the major themes of the Progressive movement and apolitical reform during this period?
4. What does the number written underneath “14th Census” on the sign represent? How does this number tie into one of the major issues of the period, immigration?
5. How would taking the census and its results have tied into the themes of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption during this period?

**Teacher's Notes****Learning Objectives**

- Students will be able to examine a cartoon published for the 1920 Census and interpret the caption and illustration in context.
- Students will be able to relate evidence drawn from a 1920 Census cartoon to major issues and themes of the Progressive movement.

**Blooms Taxonomy**

Analyzing

**Instructions for Teachers****Before this Activity**

Review with students the major events leading up to the Progressive movement as well as the movement's major themes. Have students work individually or in groups to examine the 1920 Census cartoon and respond to the “Suggested Discussion Questions”. For more information about apportionment, refer to the “Apportionment – Historical Perspective” page.

**During this Activity**

Monitor students as they work.

**After this Activity**

Review students' responses to the "Activity Assessment" prompts, addressing any misconceptions or mistakes as you review.